

Tale *Feathers*

Oct 2001

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Number 5

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Notes from the President

As I write this message, the weather finally has taken a turn towards autumn. I have to admit this is my favorite time of the year. Crisp days and cold nights are rejuvenating. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy summer but I look forward to fall. We have been busy getting newsletters out. We sure could use some more hands to help. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help, but we can always use more. Our chapter needs help on different levels. We are still looking for members that could help on our many committees. Committees either meet over the phone, or Internet, or another member's home but hospitality, publicity, membership and fundraising need assistance. Other committees such as education and conservation need support as well. It is amazing how much can be accomplished when committees are doing some of the detail work. If you are interested in helping our chapter accomplish our goals and you have a little time to spare, contact one of our committee chairs:

Education: Vicki 314-968-9166
Conservation: Sue 314-968-8128
Programs: Mitch 314-739-5112
Membership: Tom 314-962-4064
Hospitality: Mary 314-576-1473
Fundraising: John 862-5294

We are a big chapter of 2200 members. We can do more if we have more help. Remember to keep your hummingbird feeders up until at least Halloween.

Mary

October Birdseed Order Form Page 6

General Membership Meeting Speaker Series

Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center. Featured speakers, Richard Spener and Toni Armstrong on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Come and see the majestic beauty of one of America's last great wild places from first-hand travelers. Also, meet other members and discover opportunities for involvement throughout the society. Open to all, members or not. Refreshments will be available.

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas, go ½ mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas. Community Center is in the basement.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Volunteers

Sun, Oct 7. Portage Island Cleanup.

Great Rivers Audubon Society will lead a cleanup of this Mississippi River island near Grafton-part of the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. Call Blair Campbell at 618-374-2607.

Sat, Oct 13. Gilbert Lake Work Day

At Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. Join SLAS and the refuge staff in this kick-off project of what we hope will be a long-term relationship. Lots to do, including installation and maintenance of bird boxes, invasive plant removal, and trail cleanup. Call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.



The Education Committee is looking for a few dedicated (or at least a couple of hours an month to spare) classroom speakers. A new training session will start in January, 2002. It isn't too early to start planning your new year. Join us for two nights of training plus classroom training. If you might be interested in volunteering please call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166

Third Annual Honeysuckle Removal Day in Forest Park set for November 4

Last year approximately 150 persons turned out to help eradicate the exotic bush honeysuckle from Kennedy Forest in Forest Park. Now, after two years, volunteers can see the more open undergrowth in areas that have been worked on, the improved habitat, and the native trees and shrubs that are making a comeback. But there is more that needs to be done.

This year the honeysuckle removal day is scheduled for Sunday, November 4. Volunteers can participate in one (or both) of two shifts, from 10:00 am to noon and from noon to 2:00 pm. Meet at tents set up in the woods along Valley Drive — the one-way road that runs west from the south side entrance to the Art Museum.

Volunteers will work in groups of two to three persons, cutting the honeysuckle bushes and painting the stumps with Round-Up. This is particularly effective in the fall when the sap is drawn down to the roots, carrying the herbicide with it. Volunteers should bring gloves and (if available) small saws, pruning shears and/or loppers, and drinking water. Some tools and Round-Up, donated by the Monsanto Company, will be provided.

Call **Jim Holsen at (314) 822-0410** if you can participate, or sign up on the Web site www.treeswallow.com maintained by Jerry Farm, one of the six members of the Kennedy Forest Advisory Group. Click on the Honeysuckle Project. Jerry also has a map, showing where to meet.

Jim Holsen represents St. Louis Audubon on the Advisory Group. Randy Korotev, another member of the Group, has presented pictures of the savanna project on the edges of Kennedy Forest on the Web site www.wgnss.org, as does Jerry Farm on his site. St. Louis Audubon, along with other groups contributed money and volunteers to get the savanna project underway. It is expected that the savanna and the woods will be an educational resource for City school children who may seldom see a prairie or real forest. Remember that Kennedy Forest is one of the best places in the metropolitan area to observe warblers and other migrants during the spring and fall migrations — for birds using the Mississippi flyway it is a refreshing island of green in a sea of concrete, asphalt and bricks. Let's work to keep it attractive to birds and other wildlife.

Get Published!

The deadline for the Nov issue is Oct 10. Please send articles, events and letters to Anne.

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

phone 314.832.0938

post 6939 Sharp

St. Louis, MO 63116



EMERSON

Special Thanks!

Conservation Report

by Sue Gustafson

As a follow-up to last month's article on the threat to the Taum Sauk Mountain area due to the proposed AmerenUE hydroelectric plant, I am very pleased to report that due to numerous concerns expressed about the environmental sensitivity of this important ecological area, AmerenUE has dropped all plans to pursue the project. SL Audubon had submitted formal comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and had copied Ameren's CEO, and we feel that our comments did indeed make a difference. A thank you letter is being sent to Ameren to reiterate our appreciation for their responsible environmental stewardship.

Another project that SL Audubon has been following closely is the proposed Holnam cement plant at the border of Jefferson/St. Genevieve counties. The proposed "world's largest cement plant" would not only emit levels of nitrous oxide emissions that would keep St. Louis in an EPA non-attainment zone for air quality, but it would destroy 4000 acres of habitat, including undeveloped riverfront, forested bottomland, undisturbed ravines, seeps, springs, and mature forest. Numerous citizens, organizations, and government officials (including Governor Holden) have requested that the Army Corps of Engineers prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement in considering the company's request for permits. A decision on whether or not an EIS will be prepared was to be announced in September, but this has now been delayed due to the finding of the federally endangered Indiana Bat on Holnam's property. With this new information, we feel that if the Corps does *not* prepare an EIS, under what circumstances *would* they request an EIS? Stay tuned...

Another permit the Corps has been asked to approve is that of a Houston pipeline company that plans to build a new 58 mile long pipeline from Wood River to Patoka, IL. This pipeline will parallel an existing pipeline and will cross through the north end of Carlyle Lake in the Wildlife Management Area. SL Audubon, in conjunction with five other environmental organizations, met with the company to glean more information in order to make our public comments to the Corps. The construction disturbance will be temporary and the company seems to be cognizant of minimizing the impact on wildlife. Our comments will include requests that the construction period not interfere with shorebird migration periods, that tree removal timing be limited to non-nesting season, and that mitigation proposals include new tree plantings, enhancement of existing wetlands, and possibly acquisition of adjacent land (former wetlands converted to agriculture) for restoration into wetlands.

If any of our members are interested in receiving the public notices that I receive in order to make personal comments, feel free to contact me at 314-968-8128 or smgustafson@juno.com.

Wheelchair Access Comes to SLAS Birding Trips

by Jim Malone

For several years, St. Louis Audubon Society has offered the public free birding outings to the best locations, catering to novice, intermediate, and advanced birding skill levels, offering multiple trip leaders and spotting scopes on each trip. Two years ago, a West county lady (who was nice enough to share her sightings of a Rufous Hummingbird with us) happened to ask why we don't offer birding outings for wheelchair bound birders. This excellent question prompted us to plan a series of three trips this year which will allow complete participation by wheelchair birders in the same great locations we normally bird. The first of these outings will be on November 10th at the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area in West Alton, Missouri. This location is one of the best birding spots in St. Louis for this date, and all of the locations we will visit will be fully wheelchair accessible. We will make a short foray (100 yards up a gentle grade) from the cars to a viewing platform (which has a wheelchair accessible spotting scope and plenty of seating for those who cannot walk long distances). Much of the birding on this outing will be from the car or the road. We have also planned for bathroom stops during this outing at accessible flush facilities at the site. For details of location and time for this trip, see the regular bird trip information elsewhere in this newsletter or check our website at www.stlouisaudubon.org. Come on out and join us!

Pioneer Forest Celebrates its 50th Anniversary October 18

Pioneer Forest began in March of 1951 with Leo Drey's first purchase of land in the Ozarks. Leo recognized that forests could be managed conservatively for timber production without destroying the ecological integrity and natural beauty of the land. Pioneer Forest has successfully demonstrated that the method of uneven-aged management, as opposed to clear cutting, provides economic benefits for the private landowner while protecting the biological and recreational values of the forest. Leo established the L-A-D Foundation in 1962 in order to gain title to and protect lands of unique natural, geological, cultural and historical interest. Many of these lands have been made available to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, such as Grand Gulf in south central Missouri and Dillard's Mill closer to home.

A symposium celebrating 50 years of sustainable forest management will be held at the Schoenberg Auditorium at the Ridgway Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden on Thursday, October 18. The registration fee of \$25 includes lunch at the Piper Palm House in Tower Grove Park.

Papers to be presented discuss the advantages of uneven aged management, the economic influences of Pioneer Forest, and many other examples of Pioneer Forest as a model for the preservation of our natural forest heritage.

In another event, on October 14 a 61,000 acre area of the Pioneer Forest will be named the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry and dedicated to Roger Pryor, the long-time executive director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and for many years the voice of the environment in Missouri. Roger received the

Conservationist of the Year award from St. Louis Audubon in 1995. Leo Drey received the same award in 1996. Visitors are invited to attend the dedication. Call the Forest or check the web site for information.

For more information and registration forms for the symposium, write to Pioneer Forest,
PO Box 497
Salem, MO. 85560
Telephone 573-729-4641.

SLAS Annual Picnic at Shaw Nature Reserve on October 21

Once again, it is time to head west on Interstate 44 to Shaw Nature Reserve to the Adelyne Freund Center.

Due to a conflict of dates, the new date is Sunday, October 21. The start time will be 1:00 pm, ending at dark. Nature walks to the wetland area and the prairie will be led by James Trager. We will again bar-b-que hot dogs and burgers. Soda, Beer, ice, and coffee will also be provided. Please bring a dish to share: veggie, dessert, snacks or special concoction. To defray costs, please send \$3 per family to: Mary Dueren, 1701 Rathford Dr. St. Louis, MO 63146. Let us know that you are planning on attending: call or email Mary at 314-576-1473 (evenings) or mdueren@swbell.net
Directions: Take I-44 west to the Gray Summit exit. Turn left back over the interstate. Turn right on the south outer road. There is a street right before the entrance to Shaw Nature Reserve. Turn left and follow that down hill. The road will make a right turn over a one-lane bridge and then a sharp left. Look right away on the right hand side of the road for a stone gate entrance. The Freund Center is up that gravel road. Hope to see you there, rain or shine!!!

Donations to St. Louis Audubon

It is with great pleasure that the Board of St. Louis Audubon Society acknowledges the receipt of two large donations: Park East Tours, which manages the foreign trips to Africa and Central America, has contributed \$1500 to SLAS. These funds come from each traveler that participates in one of Paul Bauer's trips. For each traveler, a \$100 donation is returned to our chapter. To date, Paul's trips have returned \$9000 to our chapter!

Check out Paul's next trip to Africa. Our chapter's benefits from your participation!

Our chapter also received a bequest from the late Roland S. Garber. Mr. Garber passed away in November of 2000 and his trust named the St. Louis Audubon Society as one of the beneficiaries. We are grateful to the family of Mr. Garber.

Thank-you for donations to Friends of St. Louis Audubon: Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Sessel

If you are interested in making donations to our Friends of SLAS or charitable trust to SLAS please contact: Mary Dueren or John Solodar, co-treasurers.

October and November Birding Activities in St. Louis

by Jim Malone

The first St. Louis Audubon Shorebird Stroll was a great success! Our August 25th group of 18 birders started the morning out at Horseshoe Lake in Southern Illinois, carpooling to Riverlands EDA, through St. Charles county Missouri, ending at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. During the course of the day, we saw a number of different shorebird species, including Semipalmated Plover, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit, peeps, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Stilt Sandpipers. We also had a good selection of passerines, lots of swallows, and waders. This walk was just a hint of things to come. We have a great schedule of trips coming for October and November so you won't want to miss any of them.

October 6 (Saturday) Two Rivers NWR, 8 AM More of the same good birding seen in the shorebird stroll awaits us on a repeat visit to Two Rivers NWR. We will begin the walk at Gilbert Lake, working our way around the south end of the lake, looking for passerines, shorebirds, migrating warblers, and waterfowl. From this location, we will cross the river on the Brussels ferry and bird the access points on Swan Lake. We will also look for Blue Grosbeaks near the refuge office. This trip will include some walking (probably less than 1 mile) on level graveled roads. To get to the meeting point, take route 100 (the River Road) North from Alton, Illinois through Grafton, Illinois. We will meet across route 100 from the Brussels Ferry (on the right side of the road).

October 21 (Sunday) Horseshoe Lake, 8 AM Good numbers of waterfowl appear by the middle of October, and Horseshoe Lake is a good place to see them. Past trips during this time have yielded Long-tailed Duck, several species of grebes, and a good variety of other ducks. The area is also good for early gulls, hawks, and a variety of passerines, including many of the sparrows which winter in the St. Louis area. This outing will involve small amounts of walking on paved level ground, with most birding from the car (or nearby). To get to the meeting point, take I-70 East from St. Louis.

After passing the I-70/I-64 split, take the exit for highway 111. Turn left (North) and follow 111 about 2-3 miles to the Park entrance on the left. We will meet at the first parking lot on the right side of the main drive.

November 10 (Saturday) Riverlands EDA, 8 AM The other prime late fall / early winter location for waterfowl in the St. Louis area is the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration area near West Alton, Missouri. Situated on the Mississippi River, Riverlands gets large numbers and good variety of waterfowl beginning in the fall, through to the spring. In addition to the ducks, there are great raptors (like an occasional Peregrine Falcon or Rough-legged Hawk) Short-eared Owls, lots of gulls and terns, and even Jaegers. Past trips in this season have included Pomerine Jaeger, Little Gull, Sabine's gull, American Bittern, and Western Grebe in addition to great waterfowl. This walk will be the first walk of this calendar suitable for birding from wheelchairs. The areas we will be visiting will include short walks on paved surfaces, and much birding from the cars or immediately outside of them. To get to the meeting point, take route 367 North from I-270. At the Missouri side of the Clark bridge (which crosses the Mississippi), turn right at the Fisca gas station to enter Riverlands. Travel about 1/2 mile to the area office on the left side of the road. We will meet in this parking lot.

Education Outreach

The classroom education outreach program has reached 125 students for the 2001-2002 academic school year. Last school year we spoke to about 2,200 students and that was just our first year! Watch this column to see us grow this year. If you know an elementary or middle school teacher who might want a program on birds, butterflies or plants for their class have he or she call Vicki Flier 314-968-9166 for more information.

Enjoy Life! Go Birding !!

St. Louis Audubon Society's Bi-Annual Birdseed Sale

Friday, October 12th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00p.m. and Saturday, October 13th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Order for the early winter season and be the first on your block to start seeing the flocks migrate to your feeders. Order by Friday, October 5th for the 12th and 13th pickup or you can pick up at the annual picnic at the Freund Center at the Shaw Nature Reserve (formerly the Arboretum) in Gray Summit. You must call to arrange for this delivery.

Make check payable to St. Louis Audubon Society and mail to:

Vicki Flier
18 Algonquin Wood Place
Glendale, MO 63122-2013
314-968-9166

Pick up will be at the NEW location of Wild Bird Center

12792 Olive Blvd.
Bellerive Plaza
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

All proceeds from the birdseed sale fund the education outreach programs.

Save This Date

February birdseed sale will be the 15th and 16th (of February). Save those dates and look for the January and February Tale Feathers for the order blank.

October Birdseed Order Form

Make check payable to:

St. Louis Audubon Society and mail to:

Vicki Flier
18 Algonquin Wood Place
Glendale, MO 63122-2013

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Bird Seed Type	Lbs/ Bag	Qty. x \$	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb.	x \$9	
	50 lb.	x \$16	
No-Waste Mix no milo, has hulls	25 lb.	x \$8	8.00
	50 lb.	x \$14	
Premium No-Waste no milo, no hulls	20 lb.	x \$9	
	40 lb.	x \$16	
Safflower Seed	25 lb.	x \$16	16.00
	50 lb.	x \$28	
Thistle/Niger	10 lb.	x \$14	14.00
Total			

BIRD WITH THE EXPERTS

Paul Bauer and the St. Louis Audubon

Experience a bird's eye view of the world under the expert wing of Paul Bauer on one of St. Louis Audubon Society's many exciting birding expeditions to Africa:

BIRD TANZANIA February 28-March 10, 2002 and experience the greatest thrill in all of Africa: the miracle of the migration in the Serengeti at its peak. Escorted by expert birder and perennial favorite Francis Kitayi, you can expect to see over 300 species of birds while also visiting Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Oldupai Gorge.

BIRD KENYA in June 2002 on a budget classic birding safari. Francis Kitayi will also be by your side as you experience exciting birding and wildlife viewing in Samburu, Lake Nakuru, and the legendary Maasi Mara. Extensions available to Tanzania and Western Kenya.

BIRD SOUTH AFRICA October 11-21, 2002 in their spring with Ken Newman, renowned ornithologist and author. Bird in open vehicles in Hluhluwe, Ndumo, and Mala Mala private games reserves. An option extension is also available to Cape Town.

FOR ITINERARIES OR MORE INFORMATION , CONTACT:
Paul Bauer at (314) 921-3972

A FALL AND WINTER BIRDING FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 17; 2:00-4:00pm

Sunday, November 18; optional field trip

Reservations required starting October 31, 2001

For all ages, a new 3-part program on how to best enjoy Fall and winter birding adventures presented as a joint effort of the St. Louis Audubon Society and Powder Valley Nature Center.

2-3pm An interactive classroom session for children 6 and up (with parents!) Illustrating the parts of a bird and their function; the life cycle of a bird; environmental effects on birds and how you can help. (Limit 50)

3-4pm. An auditorium program sharing a superb video illustrating how to improve existing bird watching skills , followed by slides of the best fall and winter birding locations around St. Louis. Several handouts will be available, including directions to the Sunday field trip. (Limit 200)

Sunday 8-11am. A field trip at one of the best nearby areas to see over 20 kinds of ducks and other water birds. (Limit 50)

Scores of ducks and geese are arriving each week from the north; bald eagles will be following soon. Bird watching is one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in America. Join us for this special 3-part program and start enjoying fall and winter birding adventures.

RESERVATIONS BEGIN OCTOBER 31; CALL (314) 301-1500

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 3,000 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2001 - 2002

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-822-6595

Officers

President - Mary Dueren	314-576-1473
VP Education - Vicki Flier	314-968-9166
VP Conservation - Sue Gustafson	314-968-8128
VP Finance - John Solodar	314-862-5294
Treasurer - Mary Dueren	314-576-1473
Seretary - Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

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Bill Brandhorst	314-965-7269
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Mike Grant	636-579-0208
Diane Johnson	636-458-4369
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St. Louis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 220227

St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Ph: 314.822.6595

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This form makes you a member of **both** the National and St. Louis Audubon.

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership category desired:

- ☐ Introductory / \$20
☐ Special two-year Introductory / \$30
☐ Sr. Citizen / \$15
☐ Student / \$15
☐ Other / _____

Send a check made out to:
National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

N01 7XCH

Please support your local chapter. Use this form to join or renew.